

What NOT to Put Down the Toilet, Drains & Garbage Disposal

The Lake County Department of Utilities



In order to prevent sanitary sewer blockages, please avoid disposing of the following items down your toilet, sink, drainpipe or garbage disposal:

- fats, oils, lard, butter & grease from cooking, cars, & lawnmowers
- coffee grounds, egg shells, chicken bones & pasta
- produce stickers & clothing labels
- disposable diapers & baby wipes
- feminine hygiene products
- paper towels & cotton swabs
- flushable cat litter & aquarium gravel
- disposable/flushable toilet brushes
- ALL items marked as “flushable,” other than toilet paper
- vegetables & fruits with seeds, pits & cores

- rags & sponges
- toys
- condoms, rubber & latex items & cigarette butts
- hair, needles & syringes
- bag/wrappings, cardboard & any plastic items
- motor oil, transmission fluids, anti-freeze or other toxic chemicals
- solvents, paints, turpentine, nail polish & polish remover
- flammable or explosive substances
- corrosive substances that are acidic
- prescription & over-the-counter medications

Any solid matter you put down the toilet, garbage disposal, or drainpipe may potentially cause blockages in both the public sewer or your own private drains. This may lead to:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home, your neighbors home, yards, parks & streets
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which can lead to higher sewer bills for customers
- Threats to the environment

Private laterals (the part of the drainage network between your home and the public sewer) are narrow pipes and sometimes have bends in them where solid objects can lodge and cause blockages. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain the private laterals. It is always recommended to properly dispose of waste by means of composting, recycling or your garbage receptacle.